

Commercial



Advertiser.

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HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1896.

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FOR ANNEXATION!
Sense of the Meeting Held at Drill Shed Last Night.

OLD ANNEXATION CLUB AGAIN
Great Speeches by Judge Hartwell and Others.

Resolution Passed and Committee Appointed—Work to be Done on the Islands.

Pursuant to a call from J. Walter Jones, of the Annexation Club, Messrs. Hartwell, Murray, Stratmeyer, Wright, McStocker, Dr. Wood, Shaw, McLeod, Hoogs, Martin, Smith, Ables, Thurston, Hall, Pratt, J. N. Wright, Ripley, Fisher, Sims, J. L. McLean, C. W. Day, Clay, Towse, Peterson, J. B. Atherton, Dillingham and several others met in the room of Company H at the Drill Shed last night.

Judge Hartwell called the meeting to order and announced the objects for which the gentlemen had met. Among the reasons advanced by Judge Hartwell for prompt action in the matter of annexation, was the constant increase in the number of Japanese arriving here. "There are," he said, "five Japanese immigration companies in Honolulu, and unless there is a material change, these societies will soon run this country. It is all right for people to say the United States will not allow any foreign power to assert itself in Hawaii; the United States can say what they please, but they cannot stop the natural order of things. What this club can do in carrying out its aims rests with the officers. One thing which, to my mind, is necessary is to attract public attention, the annexation sentiment should be aroused and re-aroused, and it is within the province of the Annexation Club to do this. I believe I have expressed the feelings of every one in this room tonight in my remarks, and I merely wish to impress further the absolute necessity for prompt and concerted action toward an ultimate and prosperous end."

At the close of Judge Hartwell's remarks, F. B. McStocker said: "We are met together this evening, gentlemen, to consider the advisability of taking advantage of the present opportunity to call the Annexation Clubs together, to re-enter upon the work for which we were primarily organized. In meeting thus together, it is not the desire, I assume, of any members of this committee or of the organization, to usurp the functions delegated to our representatives in the Government, but rather to proffer our aid and assistance, should aid and assistance be required."

"In proffering this assistance, we do not, I submit, arrogate to ourselves the right of dictation or interference, but the rather assumed work of being fully prepared to combat the opposition of those opposed to annexation or favoring new issues."

"That this work belongs of right to this organization is unquestionable, it being the only organization here, having a national association, and the only one on the floor of which persons of all shades of political, religious or national beliefs may meet and make common cause."

"The questions as to whether action at the present time is wise, or as to whom shall represent them, may be safely left to the members of the organization, who on their part should

be early called together to designate their wishes in the premises. "The opposition will be alert and vigorous; it behooves us, therefore, to be stirring, and allowing no false beacons to guide us into by paths; press forward with steadfast determination, shoulder to shoulder, to the common goal."

In response to a question as to the reasons for the original organization and the whereabouts of a constitution and by-laws, Mr. McStocker stated that it was organized as an enrollment club. He did not remember that the club went into details regarding a by-laws and constitution, and in answer to Maj. McLeod, he said: "The Annexation Club, when organized, was an enormous body of men; no hall in the city was large enough to hold the members. When the constitution was drafted it provided for the appointment of committees from time to time. When the club adjourned there were in the various committees a board of officers and with the executive and other committees there were about 40 men. I consider that this meeting tonight represents the committee. It is not necessary to go on in the old path; conditions have changed, and we have them to meet. What we want to know is: Shall we call the Annexation Club together? Do those present think it advisable to have the Annexation Club take the first step toward the end for which the Government and the Club were organized?"

Lorrin A. Thurston was loudly called upon for a speech, and he gracefully responded. He said in part: "I am not an officer or a member of the Annexation Club, but I was asked to come here and see what the members were going to do. I am not altogether familiar with your mode of action, because I was not here when the Club was organized. But I understand the main object of the meeting is the calling attention of the people to the necessity for annexation; there is no more important thing than that. I have heard it said that the people of the Islands are weakening on the annexation proposition, but I do not agree with the people who say so. Circumstances are such that there has not been the necessity for our getting out on the street corners and talking about it. The recent change in the political situation in the United States warrants our pushing the measure from this time forward. If there are persons who have apparently grown lax in their desire to have the Islands annexed, it is the duty of the members of the Club to talk to those people and get them again interested."

"There is one thing I am sorry to see: the fight between the editors of the Star and the Advertiser. The editors are both annexationists, and it is a poor policy for them to make faces at each other and call names. If the Annexation Club, the American Union Club, or the American League want to push forward the claims of the people for annexation, for God's sake let them go in and do it; don't let them kick each other's shins in their hurry to keep one another from doing it. I was not here when this club or the others were organized, but I believe they are all striving to the same end, and the American League is an annexation club under another name. I do not believe there is any waning in the community regarding annexation, for we are in greater need of it today than we ever were before. There are a good many of you among the officers and the various committees, and in the reorganization you should use caution and judgment as in any business proposition; get the best men you have—men you can depend upon for good."

It may be that the bulk of the work should be done at the other end of the line, but there is some to be done here, and as it is so long since the Club met I think it would be wise to call the roll and ascertain the feeling. I was told before I came here tonight that eight of the officers have left the country. There may be some back sliders, and it is the duty of the Club to ascertain who they are and bring them back. Annexation is what the Government was organized for, and it is the pole star toward which we are gliding, the same as in 1893." (Applause.)

On a call of the Chairman for further remarks, B. F. Dillingham said in part: "I do not think that I can say anything that will add any weight to what Mr. Thurston has just said. But I wish to express a thought regarding the controversy between the papers. It has been a mistake, in my opinion, that there should have been a difference between the editors of two papers, whose policy is for annexation. There is no questioning the truthfulness of the old saying, 'United we stand; divided we fall.' The matter of a name in an affair of this kind amounts to nothing, but we must work for the end for which the Club was organized and which the Government is pledged to—annexation. It is barely possible that some of the men who declared themselves in 1893 in favor of annexation have changed their minds, but in view of the possible changes in our treaty relations with the United States, I believe we should not only favor an-

nexation, but work for it. I do not mean by this that the patriotism of the people of Hawaii is to be measured by dollars and cents, but if we know that a thing is for our good we will strive to obtain it."

Mr. McStocker asked the indulgence of the members that he might say a few words regarding the opposition to the calling of the meeting. "When the Club was organizing there was a great deal of work to be done in order to enroll members. We worked day and night, in order to secure names, and if the people who oppose the call knew the extent of the work they would not be so apt at using harsh language toward the members of the committee. As to the annexation scheme waning, a gentleman from Hawaii, who I invited to come here tonight, could have told you how things have changed there. A number of people, he informs me, have modified their views on this great question; men who were heart and soul with us in 1893 and 1894 have weakened or gone over to the other side, and we will have to do some proselyting in order to get them back into the fold. To do this we must have harmony, for in organization there is strength. I believe it is necessary to revive the Club, for we need workers. We all know of the admirable work done by W. B. Oleson when he was here and after he left, and we are in need of just such workers now. I am in favor of calling the Club together and picking out the best men in it to work for the cause of annexation; men in whom we have confidence and who will push the work along."

Judge Hartwell said: "I do not mean to say that no annexationist has changed his mind, there may be several, but if there are I have not met them. My home is here, and I do not go abroad on the other islands, where I might find them. I will say this much: There has been no change among the men who have large property interests. You may consider Castle & Cooke, Brewer & Co., M. S. Grinnell & Co., Wilder's Steamship Company, the Wilcoxes of Kauai and Mr. Baldwin of Maui as strong annexationists and men who have enormous interests at stake. They have not waned in their opinion. There are men of course, who are wonderfully strong on the fence, who can see no sense in pushing annexation at this time, but those men and others, who may have gone backward, if there are such, are the ones you are to work with."

Col. J. H. Fisher felt that there were too many excuses being offered for the calling of the meeting. He said: "I do not think it is necessary to give excuses for calling the meeting. For a long time past there has been no necessity for agitating the question, but the change of conditions in the United States requires some decided action on our part. It has been a long time, to us, since there has been a Republican administration at Washington, and as one will assume the reins in March, it is our duty to let the people in Washington know we are still anxious to be annexed. If there is a weakness among the people here, it must be strengthened." Col. Fisher then put the motion that the meeting be called and it carried unanimously.

Col. Fisher then moved that a committee of five be appointed to draft a preamble and by-laws and get the work done as soon as possible, and immediately after this was done to call a general meeting. He would oppose any attempt to attach any conditions to the membership. Persons should be admitted without regard to oaths to support this Government. This club is not a political one, its motives are grander than anything in politics. The motion carried.

Judge Hartwell then said that if there was nothing further he would introduce a resolution. J. B. Atherton occupied the chair temporarily and Judge Hartwell then read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE ANNEXATION CLUB.

At a meeting of the officers of the Annexation Club of Honolulu, held on the evening of the 27th day of November, 1896, it was:

Resolved, This Club was formed in the month of February, in 1893, under the Provisional Government of Hawaii, for the purpose of giving definite expression to the desire for the annexation of Hawaii to the United States, and of encouraging and promoting such desirable object.

The Provisional Government having accomplished the object for which it was established, both in conserving the cause of law and order, and of Constitutional Government, and in endeavoring to establish a political union with the United States, has been merged in the Republic of Hawaii, the end and aim of which is to accomplish political union with the United States; this Club hereby declares that it is still the earnest

desire of its members that the Republic of Hawaii be annexed to the United States, and become an integral portion of that great Republic, subject to the existing laws of the United States, and to such further laws as Congress shall enact, and that it is the firm belief of the members of this Club that such result will best promote the interests of all classes and nationalities of people within the Hawaiian Islands.

This Club respectfully assures the Government of the Republic of Hawaii of the desire of its members that as soon as shall be practicable annexation to the United States be accomplished, leaving to the United States to enact such laws as Congress shall deem to be proper.

The speaker finished reading amid tremendous applause. When it had ceased he said:

"I would like to make a few remarks on the resolution I have just read. In my opinion, its meat is in the last section. I believe there are a number of people in the country who believe in and want annexation, but they want to haggle; they want to know about contract labor, and they tremble when they think of the public lands question. These people don't know what they want. When we commence that sort of thing, this haggling business, we simply provide ammunition for our enemies in the United States to fire at us. The details of a treaty, the questions of plantation labor and public lands can wait. For myself, I want annexation now, and the sooner we get it the better. I don't care how simple the treaty may be, I will be satisfied. 'Hawaii is hereby annexed to the United States' will suit me, for I am not afraid of the United States Congress or that our affairs will not be attended to. Let us be annexed first and look to the details afterward."

Messrs. McStocker, Fisher, Wood, Ripley and others spoke of the country being rapidly Orientalized and pointed to the landing of 53 Japanese from the Toya Maru as an object lesson.

Judge Hartwell then appointed Messrs. Thurston, McStocker, Fisher and Dillingham, and, upon the urgent wish of the members, himself, on the committee of five called for in Col. Fisher's resolution. A motion to adjourn was not carried, as there was a heavy rainfall, and those present preferred to keep out of the wet and listen to further remarks. J. B. Atherton was called upon for a few words, which he spoke, but his remarks were heard with difficulty, owing to the patter of the rain on the iron roof.

"I have," he said, "been one of those who thought there was nothing to be done here regarding annexation. The command has been given, the Legislature has pledged itself, and resolutions have been passed. I did not see that anything else was to be done by us, and there was but one thing left for the Government to do—get annexation as quickly as possible. As to voters, I do not know that anything can be done, the registration books were open and every one had an opportunity to register and become voters and those men might have had an opportunity to say whether annexation must be had or not. But a number of the citizens declined to present themselves, and I fail to see why they should expect to say at this time whether or not the country shall be annexed to the United States. The present members of the Government were selected to represent the people, and it is for them to say what has to be done. I believe the idea that a vote should be taken is a mistake. We find in this country three or four kinds of voters: the annexationists; those who prefer it to this Government; those who want it in any form; those who fear the labor will be ruined and want a protectorate, because we will have the advantages of annexation without any material change in our internal affairs. This last form I have no faith in, because I do not believe the United States feels called upon to give us this much without having given some consideration and willing to take plain annexation, because I believe I will gain more money in the next 10 years than I will without it."

B. F. Dillingham said: "It is something of a coincidence that the men who opposed the Reciprocity Treaty are those who oppose annexation. I remember going about at that time trying to get signatures to a petition to have the treaty passed, and I met with all kinds of rebuffs. One man told me I had better go back to my store and sell nails, for if the treaty became a law it would open the doors to all kinds of peddlers to come here and take away my trade. I told him I would rather be a clerk in a place where there was plenty of business than an employer where there was none. We know what that treaty did for Hawaii, and I believe annexation will do as much more."

There being no further remarks the motion to adjourn was carried.

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